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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03
SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15
DODE-00 H-01 INT-05 L-03 PA-01 CTME-00 STR-06
ITC-01 PRS-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 OIC-02 /129 W
----------022968 161718Z /45
O R 161634Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4289
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, OECD
SUBJECT: JAN 13 XCSS: NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: XCSS NORTH SOUTH DISCUSSION FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON UN OVERVIEW MECHANISM, AND U.S. WON BROAD ENDORSEMENT FOR ITS VIEW THAT NEW COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, SHOULD ORIENT ITS ACTIVITY TOWARD THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND THAT FUNCTIONAL SUBGROUPS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. ON QUESTION OF RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP
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STEERING GROUP, ADVOCATED BY U.S. AND FRANCE, SEVERAL DELS HAD RESERVATIONS. BRIEF EXCHANGE ON LONG TERM NORTH SOUTH APPROACH RESULTED IN AGREEMENT THAT OECD SHOULD CONTINUE WORK AIMED AT CONCEPTUAL PREPARATION OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION. ONLY INTERVENTION ON SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE WAS NORWEGIAN FORECAST THAT COMMON FUND

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CONFERENCE COULD RESUME AS EARLY AS APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. OVERVIEW MECHANISM: AFTER SKETCHING HISTORY OF DIALOGUE OVERVIEW MACHINERY WORKED OUT AT 32ND UNGA, U.S. DEL (UNDERSECRETARY COOPER) URGED THAT L) NEW BODY BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, WITH DC'S REPRESENTED BY OPERATIONAL OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS; 2) DC'S SEEK TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP STEERING GROUP OF 15-25 COUNTRIES BUT AVOID FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES; AND 3) WORK OF OVERVIEW BODY SHOULD ULTIMATELY BE ORIENTED TOWARD EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY, INCLUDING MACRO ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF ENERGY. FRANCE (FROMENT-MEURICE) AGREED FULLY WITH U.S., BUT SUGGESTED STEERING GROUP WOULD NEED TO BE LARGER TO INCLUDE THE EAST AND CHINA, AND NOTED IMPORTANCE OF HAVING DECISION-MAKING BY CONSENSUS AND OF KEEPING MEETINGS TO 2-3 DAYS. OTHER DELS EX-PRESSED BROAD AGREEMENT WITH U.S. AND FRANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE RESERVATIONS ABOUT STEERING GROUP CONCEPT AND DOUBTS THAT MEETINGS COULD BE KEPT SHORT. SWEDEN DOUBTED G-77 WOULD EVER AGREE TO RESTRICTED GROUP AND WARNED ABOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS OVERVIEW MECHANISM COULD HAVE ON INDEPENDENCE OF ECOSOC, UNCTAD, IMF, AND GATT. FRG CAUTIONED THAT PREMATURE CRYSTALLIZING OF DC VIEWS ON ORGANIZATION COULD SPOIL ATMOSPHERE IN NEW YORK, AND SUGGESTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSING QUESTION LATER IN N.Y. WHEN IT WAS CLEARER WHERE G-77 STOOD. UK AND AUSTRALIA FAVORED EXPANDED "BUREAU" RATHER THAN STEERING GROUP. FINLAND, AUSTRIA AND CANADA WERE DOUBTFUL ON ADVISABILITY OF SEEKING RESTRICTED BODY. DUTCH NOTED THEY FAVORED ACTIVIST ROLE FOR OVERVIEW BODY, INCLUDING SETTING TIME FRAMES FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER FORUMS. SEVERAL DELS MENTIONED FORMULATION OF LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AS ONE OF KEY TASKS FOR GROUP. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION FRENCH DEL SAID SERIOUS ROLE FOR OVERVIEW BODY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT RESTRICTED GROUP, THAT "BUREAU" COULD NOT SERVE THIS FUNCTION, AND THAT TOTAL REEXAMINATION OF DC ATTITUDE TOWARD BODY WOULD BE IN ORDER IF LDC'S DID NOT THEMSELVES TREAT IT SERIOUSLY.

3. LONG-TERM NORTH SOUTH APPROACH: JAPAN MENTIONED HOPE THAT OECD INTERFUTURES PROJECT AND WORK OF BRANDT COMMISSION WOULD HELP MEMBER GOVERNMENTS DEVELOP LONG TERM APPROACH TO N/S RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP NOTED BRANDT REPORT NOT DUE FOR

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L8 MONTHS AND OUTLINED ONGOING OECD EFFORTS IN THIS AREA, INCLUDING A) NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE UNIT COVERING BROAD DEVELOPMENT POLICY; B) REORIENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT CENTER ACTIVITIES TOWARD LONGER TERM N/S QUESTIONS; C) CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMAL DAC CONTACTS WITH LDC'S; AND D) STUDIES BEING PREPARED BY CONSULTANTS FOR SEC GEN ON LONG TERM MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY XCSS AND MINISTERS. GROUP AGREED WITH CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUSION THAT OECD HAD IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN CONCEPTUAL PREPARATION OF MEMBERS FOR DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE IN NEW YORK.

4. RAW MATERIALS: ONLY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WAS NORWEGIAN INTERVENTION ON COMMON FUND.
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HUSLID, CHAIRMAN OF UNCTAD AD HOC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP, SUGGESTED THAT UNCTAD SEC GEN COREA WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH KEY PARTIES TO COMMON FUND NEGOTIATION SOON AND WOULD REPORT TO SESSION OF HIS GROUP WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN LATE FEBRUARY. IF ALL WENT WELL, HUSLID SAID, NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE COULD RECONVENE AS SOON AS APRIL. THERE WAS NO COMMENT ON NORWEGIAN POINTS (MAJOR DELS HAD AGREED EARLIER NOT TO TAKE UP ISSUE IN PLENARY).

5. THIS CABLE DRAFTED AFTER DEPARTURE OF U.S. DELEGATION.
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